

FROM :

Nov. 13 2001 11:33AM P1

Placer County
Water Agency

COMMENT CARD

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY/U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

PCWA AMERICAN RIVER PUMP STATION AND RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

NAME:	Bob & Denise DiMiceli
ADDRESS:	1479 Buckeye, Ct.
CITY/STATE/ZIP:	Auburn CA 95603
BUSINESS AND/OR HOME PHONE/FAX:	Fax 530/387-9199
ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE):	
COMMENTS: see attached	

PLEASE USE THIS TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS. COMMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE BOARD.

PLEASE USE THIS TO SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT THE DRAFT EIS/EIR. YOU CAN SEND ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO:
DRAFT EIS/EIR COMMENTS, SURFACE WATER RESOURCES, INC., 2031 HOWE AVENUE, SUITE 110, SACRAMENTO, CA 95825
JUST FOLD THIS SELF-ADDRESSED SHEET INTO THIRDS, SEAL, STAMP, AND MAIL. THANK YOU.

NOV-13-01 TUE 10:35 AM 5908879199

2. 1

FROM :

NOV 13 2001 11:33AM P2

Nov. 13 2001 11:33AM P2

November 13, 2001

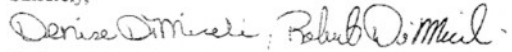
To whom it may concern,

A I, as well as many of my neighbors feel compelled to put into written form our concerns regarding the American River Pump Station Project. If the need for a pumping system is truly needed that is one thing. But to add roads and parking for recreational use that is another. I do not want any recreational additions made to our area. We are first and foremost a family neighborhood. We have a school and many children that we must protect from traffic and people that are possibly undesirable. Many of our children walk to school across Maidu. We also have the environmental issues of pollution related to traffic, construction and from recreational use. Our area has a tremendous amount of traffic as it is and we do not need to actively increase it with a park access. It is not only vehicle pollution but noise pollution and litter as well.

The above are my major concerns and hopefully this committee will understand that I am definitely against adding a State park river access to our area.

Why not consider the parking area at the Overlook for the River access. There is already parking established at that site. Could that area not be further developed?

Sincerely,



Denise and Robert DiMiceli

1479 Buckeye Ct.

Auburn, CA - 95603

- A. Please refer to Master Response 3.1.6, Public River Access Features and Master Response 3.1.10, Project Access.

NOV-13-01 TUE 10:36 AM 5908879199

P. 2

RECEIVED NOV 13 2001

November 11, 2001

Bureau of Reclamation/PCWA
 Draft EIS/EIR Comments
 Surface Water Resources, Inc.
 2031 Howe Avenue
 Sacramento, CA 95825

To Whom This May Concern:

Many residents have expressed concerns regarding new traffic patterns and volumes as a result of the proposed "Pump Station" project. We represent one of the few minority voices in the area and feel the project has tremendous benefits to Auburn's economic, environmental and recreational health. As an impacted resident, share some of the concerns expressed during the November 7, 2001 informational hearing and would ask that the project applicants not act too hastily to appease certain neighborhoods at the expense of others. Many residents felt that most of the concerns could be remedied by simply shifting the access point for the new recreational opportunities from Maidu to Pacific Avenue. Perhaps some of the residents are thinking a bit too parochially and have not considered the fact that shifting or reducing traffic from Maidu to Pacific would result in disproportionately impacting other neighborhoods such as the lower Riverview area. If Maidu is closed for through traffic, not only would vehicles filter through other residential areas to access the new recreational amenities but also many property owners along Riverview have backyards that back-up to what would be the proposed alternative access road. Additionally, everyone in Auburn is fully aware of the fact that Maidu Drive was originally designed to withstand heavy volumes of traffic to negotiate the proposed dam road. Pacific, Skyridge and Riverview had no such designs. Unlike Riverview, children do not play in the street of Maidu and while we concede there may be safety issues regarding a neighboring school, safety considerations should also be given to youth utilizing the park facility on Pacific.

We think the new recreation component along the American River is exciting and are willing to sacrifice, to some extent, the terrific quality of life my family's currently enjoys. However, the issue of traffic must be addressed holistically and we would contend that both the residents along Maidu along with those on Riverview should share proportionately impacts resulting from a project that benefits California as a whole.

If the "Auburn Dam" were ever built we are convinced that my property values would probably increase. However, we feel the intrinsic value of the proposed recreational component far outweighs any monetary consideration for two reasons. First, currently our family (2, 4 and 6 year-old sons) aren't able to easily access the stretch of river behind our home. A new access road and parking facility near the river will greater permit such an activity. In addition, the more investment in infrastructure constructed along the canyon would reduce the prospects for a dam, thus saving critical habitat values as well as taxpayer dollars.

We know PCWA, the Bureau and State Parks want to be good neighbors. In developing a solution to address traffic concerns we would urge the project applicants to find mechanisms in which to limit vehicular access near the river. Enforceable "No Parking Zones" along Maidu and the access road leading to the proposed parking lot would alleviate neighborhood concerns, as would a staffed pay station that would actually monitor and manage the number of vehicles accessing the facility. There are a number of unknowns involved with this project and in fairness to those that have invested and developed roots in the area perhaps some "trust building" is in order. The suggested lack of notification and consideration of the scope and proposed mitigation measures required to address neighborhood concerns is very disconcerting to many. In order to avoid potential litigation we would recommend that the project applicants conduct a series of community workshops so that community input is fully considered as the project evolves. Thank you for your consideration.

Doug, Juli, Collin, Parker & Alex Houston
 285 Riverview Drive
 Auburn, CA 95603
 (530) 885-4315

- A. Project support noted. Please refer to Master Response 3.1.6, Public River Access Features and Master Response 3.1.10, Project Access.
- B. Please refer to Master Response 3.1.6, Public River Access Features.
- C. Please refer to Response L-95.A regarding public notification and involvement efforts associated with the American River Pump Station Project environmental review process. Additionally, it is noted that lead and responsible agency representatives participated in several additional meetings, including attendance with the Auburn City Council, with local residents to hear and discuss their concerns.

L-121



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

November 13, 2001

Mr. Rod Hall
Bureau of Reclamation
7794 Folsom Dam Road
Folsom, CA. 95630-1799

Dear Mr. Hall:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for **Placer County Water Agency American River Pump Station Project, Placer County, California** (CEQ# 010334). Our review is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) propose to develop a year-round water supply diversion of up to 35,500 acre-feet annually (AFA) from PCWA's Middle Fork Project on the American River with water entitlements from the North Fork of the American River. The proposed project consists of constructing a diversion and intake structure, pump station and associated facilities including: pipelines, access roads, power lines, and safety features. The Bureau and PCWA are negotiating a contract that will define the terms and conditions upon which ownership for the facilities would be transferred to PCWA, including responsibilities for operation, maintenance, and related activities for the project.

PCWA holds appropriative rights to divert 120,000 AFA from the American River. In the late 1960s, PCWA built a pump station on the North Fork of the American River to convey its water supplies to the Auburn Ravine Tunnel for delivery to PCWA's service area. However, before pump station operations began, PCWA's station was removed by the Bureau as part of the construction of the multipurpose Auburn Dam. Under a Land Purchase Agreement, the Bureau is required to make water deliveries of up to 25,000 AFA to PCWA. The Bureau has met these water delivery obligations through installation and removal of a seasonal pump station on an as-needed basis since 1977. Beginning in 1990, PCWA has required access to its American River supply every year to meet its system demand. In addition, by the early 2000s, PCWA will require year-round access to its full American River water supply. Furthermore, the seasonal pumps have become increasingly expensive and cannot provide the diversion capacity to fulfill demand patterns.

Alternatives considered include upstream diversion at the site of the seasonal pump; a mid-channel alternative of setting a permanent diversion intake structure within the current dewatered portion of the river channel; and a no project alternative of continuing the present

seasonal pump station operation. The Mid-Channel Diversion Alternative is the preferred alternative. This alternative includes restoration of the currently de-watered river segment near Auburn and closure of the bypass tunnel. Additional improvements would be implemented under this alternative to ensure safe public access near the project area.

A

EPA commends the Bureau and PCWA for their efforts to provide a year-round water supply diversion while minimizing potential adverse impacts to the unique sensitive resources of the American River. We concur that the Mid-Channel Diversion Alternative may best meet these project goals. Of special note are the restoration of the de-watered river segment and closure of the bypass tunnel. These actions will provide significant environmental benefits and remove a major public safety hazard.

B

We are also impressed with the effort to analyze the diversion-related and development-related cumulative impacts in the American River Basin and water service areas (American River Basin Cumulative Impact Report, Appendix D). While this Report provides an excellent detailed evaluation of reasonably foreseeable water supply actions in the Bureau's American River Division of the Central Valley Project, we believe the Report would be of even greater value if it described potential mitigation measures and included other American River Basin and regional diversion actions that may adversely affect resources of concern. For example, the US Corps of Engineers and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency have recently proposed flood control improvements on the American River which may alter future flood releases and have significant effects on sensitive riparian areas (American River Project, Long-Term Study, California).

C

EPA believes water supply commitments should be tailored to reflect supplies reasonably expected to be available under varying conditions (e.g., wet versus dry years). We are concerned that if water quantity commitments consistently exceed available water supply, that perceived "shortages" will be created. We fear that such "shortages" may give the impression of unreliable commitments and may imply a "need" to develop additional supplies. Often development of "new supplies" is only reallocation of scarce water from environmental in-stream beneficial uses to consumptive uses. Thus, we advocate an approach which is focussed on efficient use and management of existing scarce water supplies. The quantity of allocated water in the proposed project should be based on existing, developed American River supplies and not on needs, demands, or anticipated additional supplies. We strongly urge the Bureau to avoid water quantity commitments exceeding expected supplies and to avoid allocating shortages relative to inflated supply commitments.

D

While we acknowledge PCWA's appropriate water rights to divert from the American River, we are very concerned with the proposed increase in PCWA's diversion on the upper American River. The DEIS clearly demonstrates that diversion-related cumulative impacts will have significant adverse impacts on scarce sensitive resources (e.g., threatened and endangered fisheries, riparian habitat). Although the proposed action has a minor incremental contribution to these cumulative impacts, we believe that the purpose and need of the proposed action is to ensure a year-round reliable water supply for PCWA versus permanent up-stream access to an American River diversion. Thus, we support the Bureau and PCWA efforts to develop alternative diversion points (e.g., Sacramento River) and other water supply sources. We urge you to aggressively pursue these efforts and to consider reduction of the amount of the proposed diversion on the American River.

A. Project support noted.

B. The modeling performed for the diversion-related evaluation of cumulative impacts within the American River Basin includes other American River and regional water diversion, flood control, and water temperature management actions that may affect environmental resources within the regional study area. The assumptions and parameters used in the modeling simulations include hydrology/level of land use, water demands, CVP facilities and operations (including flood control operations), CVP and SWP allocation objectives and decisions, and all applicable regulatory standards. These topics are briefly described in the Draft EIS/EIR, Chapter 3.0, Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences, Section 3.3.2.4, Modeling Assumptions (see pages 3-22 through 3-24) and in greater detail in Appendix E, Technical Modeling Memorandum (see Table 1). The cumulative analysis assumed implementation of and incorporated operational information that was available at the time of the analysis for all reasonably foreseeable future local, state, and federal projects or actions.

The Draft EIS/EIR reports that the cumulative condition would potentially result in significant environmental impacts. However, the incremental contribution of the Proposed Project would not be cumulatively considerable, and therefore, would be less than significant for all resources evaluated, with the exception of potential impacts upon cultural resources at Shasta Reservoir. As a result of this determination, Reclamation is developing a programmatic agreement with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to fully mitigate this potential impact. CEQA and NEPA only require or recommend mitigation of a project's contribution to a cumulative impact. However, as identified in the Cumulative Report, both lead agencies are actively involved in local and regional efforts, such as the Water Forum Agreement, related to improving the condition of sensitive fisheries and aquatic and terrestrial resources potentially affected by projected future changes in water project operation.

Letter 121 (cont)

Response C

Reclamation recognizes that the water supplies in the American River Basin are fully committed. Generally, American River Division CVP water contractors upstream of Folsom Dam already take their full water supply entitlements, except when water supply shortages are declared. As part of the Sacramento Area Water Forum Agreement, the American River Division CVP contractors have agreed to reduce water supply diversions during drier years. The American River Pump Station Project, however, involves use of water supplied by PCWA's Middle Fork Project (subject to water right permit numbers 13586 and 13858, as authorized by the State Water Resources Control Board) and does not involve the diversion of CVP water entitlements. Therefore, although the American River Basin as a whole may be fully committed, PCWA's MFP water supplies are not.

The Draft EIS/EIR describes Reclamation's CVP water allocation decision-making in Chapter 3.0, Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences, Section 3.3.2.4, Modeling Assumptions (see page 3-24) and in Appendix E, Technical Modeling Memorandum.

Response D

PCWA and Reclamation recently completed negotiation of PCWA's CVP water contract amendment (PCWA/USBR 2002). One of the provisions of the contract requires PCWA and Reclamation to evaluate an alternative point of diversion from the Sacramento River for PCWA's CVP water entitlements (otherwise to be taken from the American River, at Folsom Dam/Reservoir). Congress recently authorized and directed Reclamation to complete a feasibility study for this project consistent with the Sacramento Area Water Forum Agreement. Study funding has been authorized and it is expected that the feasibility evaluation will be underway this year (2002). Development of the Sacramento River Diversion Project would enable PCWA to reduce the total amount of water it diverts from the American River, thereby minimizing its contribution to future influences on resources of the upper and lower American River. Implementation of the Sacramento River Diversion Project would be subject to all applicable environmental review and regulatory permitting approval, including public involvement opportunities.